(c) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the present status of the proposed Bangalore international airport project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is a plan to extend the area of terminal building of the proposed Bangalore International airport as there is an increase in traffic from the earlier projections.

(b) and (c) The details of the plan & expenditure on the revised plan are being worked out.

(d) The Financial Close of the project was achieved on 23rd June, 2005 and the formal implementation of the Project has commenced on 2nd July, 2005. This project is likely to be ready for operation in April, 2008.

Advanced baggage clearance system at Bangalore Airport

2133. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers, on an average, check in at Bangalore Airport daily;

(b) whether advanced baggage clearance was installed in Bangalore Airport; and

(c) if not, by when it will be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The average number of passengers passing through Bangalore International airport is 8491 per day comprising of 7456 domestic and 1035 international passengers.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected.

Revival of Cuddapah Airport

2134. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cuddapah Airport in Andhra Pradesh is under the control of Airports Authority of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that between 1985 and 1989 Vayudoot flights were in operation in Cuddapah Airport;

(c) if so, the reasons for abandoning the above airport;

(d) whether there is any proposal to revive the airport and start its operations afresh;

(e) whether any request in this regard has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by Government on the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Cuddapah airport was not abandoned. It is a non-operational airport since no scheduled flight has operated at Cuddapah for more than 15 years.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to make Cuddapah airport operational for low-cost airlines.

(g) On inspection, the upgradation of existing facilities at Cuddapah airport for operation of ATR-42 type of aircraft was found feasible. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plan, at present, to take up the development works because there is no demand from any scheduled airlines to operate through this airport.

Pending proposals for new airlines

2135. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are encouraging existing private airlines to expand their wings in Aviation sector;

(b) if not, the reasons for granting international slots to these airlines without waiting for Aviation Policy;

(c) whether Government would encourage other private domestic airlines and allow new players to enter the Aviation sector by giving the permission promptly;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;